

## STORY 41.

THE EXAMPLE WHICH (HAZRAT) OMAR SET TO THE  
RULERS OF THE WORLD.

IN his rounds in Medina and its suburbs (Hazrat) Omar once passed by a house which belonged to a poor Arab woman who have several children but no one to support them. She had no food for the children and they were crying on account of hunger. In order to beguile them and keep them quiet she had placed a pot containing only water on the fire, and from time to time she stirred the water with a spoon to make the children believe that the pot contained food which would be ready in a short time. But the children were tired of waiting and began to cry again. Upon this the woman told them the truth and burst into tears.

(Hazrat) Omar heard all this. He was very much moved. He entered the house and said to the woman. "Old mother, what is the matter." The woman replied "My son! I have so many mouths to feed, but I have no food to give them.

"So they are crying. I don't know what to do." This was too much for the tender-hearted, and God-fearing (Hazrat) Omar. He hastened to the Bait-ul Mal, and lifted a sack of flour and other eatables on his own shoulder and thus laden made his way to the house of the old woman. When he got there he helped the woman to prepare a meal and when all had eaten to their fill he came back

to his house. Here is a sublime example of service—the highest serving the lowest with a loving devotion with which he would serve his own beloved ones.